

Annual Report 2001

**New Jersey Commission
on Cancer Research**

**Dedicated to Conquering Cancer
Through Scientific Research**



**James E. McGreevey
Governor**

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CANCER RESEARCH

2001 Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Chairperson / iii

About the Commission / 1

2001 Research Highlights / 2

2001: A Year in Review / 10

2001 Commission Members and Staff / 16

2001 Advisory Group Update and Membership / 19

2001 Revenue Summary / 25

2002: Planning for the Future / 26



**The Honorable
James E. McGreevey
Governor**



Dear Governor McGreevey,

On behalf of the Commissioners and staff of the State of New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research, it is my privilege to present to you, the first annual Commission Report of your new administration. Since its inception in 1984, through the Kean, Florio and Whitman administrations, the Commission has served as a model for the nation, an investment in the New Jersey scientific infrastructure, and a source of hope and benefit to all citizens of the State.

In 2001, over 41,000 of our relatives, friends, and neighbors, were diagnosed with cancer, and more than 18,000 succumbed to the disease. The financial costs related to cancer in New Jersey are estimated at over \$5 billion per year, and the costs in pain and suffering are incalculable. Through its promotion and support of research into the causes, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of the disease, the Commission has a unique opportunity to provide long-term benefit to all New Jerseyans.

From its inception, the Commission has recognized the importance of working with key partners, to ensure the most effective use of resources, and to assist in the creation of relationships. This strategy encourages new approaches to the fight against cancer to be developed, and transition from the laboratory to the clinic, expedited. The Commission continues its regular dialogue with a multitude of constituencies to develop appropriate strategies and priorities. In this regard, we are especially grateful to the many individuals who serve on Commission Advisory Groups and Task Forces. These individuals provide assistance that is vital to the Commission's mission.

2001 was an extraordinary productive year for the Commission. We applaud your commitment to the cause of cancer control, and look forward to working with you and the members of your administration, to build on our past achievements, and to encourage future progress in our mutual struggle against cancer.

Sincerely,

**Paul E. Wallner, D.O.
NJCCR Chair**

About the Commission on Cancer Research

Mission Statement

Working Together to Eradicate Cancer

Throughout its history, The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) has united with members of the cancer community so that we might work together to keep New Jersey on the cutting edge in the fight against cancer.

The NJCCR was established in 1983 (Cancer Research Act of 1983 - P.L.83, Ch.6) to promote and fund significant cancer research projects proposed and carried out by New Jersey scientists. The Act dedicates annually a sum of no less than \$1 million to the NJCCR to fund research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of cancer. The Commission's eleven members, who are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate, are distinguished leaders from the scientific, medical, and business communities. The members, along with the NJCCR staff and hundreds of volunteers, strive to keep the state competitive in the area of cancer research. The primary activity of the Commission is the funding of scientifically peer-reviewed cancer research grants and training fellowships at eligible nonprofit institutions throughout the state. In addition, the NJCCR administers the revenues raised through the New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund and the Conquer Cancer license plate.

Early on in its development, the Commission recognized that the only sure strategy for success in our mission was to invest in the most talented people. With this in mind, the Commission has consistently supported emerging research talent seeking to break into the competitive world of cancer research, and senior investigators embarking on new research directions. The Commission

uses an NIH system of scientific peer-review in making its awards, which assures a rigorous and fair approach to all of its endeavors. To date, over \$16.6 million for 250 grants and over \$4.9 million for 216 summer, pre- and post-doctoral fellowships have been awarded.

Since 1983, the NJCCR has been making a difference in the lives of New Jerseyans by helping to educate them about the early signs of cancer, offering programs and services to those experiencing cancer, advocating for healthy public policy, and of course, funding innovative cancer research leading to better treatment and prevention strategies.

In 2001, over 41,000 New Jerseyans learned they had cancer and 18,000 died of the disease. The New Jersey State Cancer Registry estimates that there are currently over 350,000 of our relatives, friends, and neighbors living with a history of cancer, in our state. New Jersey also consistently ranks among the ten highest states for cancer incidence and mortality. The economic costs of cancer are enormous. Recent analysis indicates that all cancer-related costs to New Jersey are estimated at over \$5 billion per annum. Needless to say, the burden from human suffering and sacrifice cannot be measured. However, it is for these reasons that the Commission is dedicated to carrying out its mandate.

In summary, a great deal has been achieved this year as outlined in this 2001 Annual Report. The NJCCR has appreciated the opportunity to work closely with the many diverse groups in reducing the impact of this disease on our citizens and looks forward to the upcoming year in making significant progress in achieving its aims.

To ensure that the citizens of New Jersey receive the fullest benefit of our nation's fight against cancer through the promotion and funding of research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of cancer.

2001 Research Highlights

*For every dollar
the NJCCR has
awarded, over
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economy.*

2001 Grant Awards

In order to attain its goals, the NJCCR invests in the state's scientific infrastructure by supporting basic laboratory and preventive studies, as well as clinical protocols, and epidemiological and psychosocial research. The Commission's six specialized advisory groups, along with the input from public advocates, assist the NJCCR in generating its research agenda.

To ensure a nonpartisan approach, awards are based on the highest scientific merit. The NJCCR uses a competitive peer-review process, similar to the methods used by the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society. The majority of NJCCR seed grants have been very successful in attracting national funds back to New Jersey for continued research. For every dollar the NJCCR has awarded, over \$4.65, on average, has been returned to the state for continued research, strengthening the scientific infrastructure and New Jersey's economy. This is an outstanding, better than 450%, return on our state's investment in this area.

In the course of its work, the NJCCR has gained national recognition by the National Cancer Advisory Board, and has been a model for other states.

Through this highly competitive grant program, five two year awards, two one

year awards, one breast cancer research fund award, and five awards in response to our Request for Applications (RFAs) were granted to investigators at non-profit research institutions throughout New Jersey in 2001.

In addition, the Isermann Family Foundation made a generous and greatly appreciated contribution to the NJCCR in 2001 (100% of all contributions to the NJCCR go directly to approved projects and are tax deductible as provided by law). The Isermann Award was presented to Dr. Edouard I. Azzam to investigate the effects of low doses of ionizing radiation in human cells. This study will contribute to our understanding of radiation and its relevance to environmental protection, and to diagnostic and therapeutic medicine protocols that use radiation-emitters to detect and treat cancer.

Two Year Awards

Lawrence E. Harrison, M.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

PPAR γ : A Mechanism of Phenylbutyrate-Induced Apoptosis

\$95,300

Fang Liu, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University

Role of Cyclin-Dependent Kinase Phosphorylation of SMAD

\$99,000

Kevin Sweder, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University

Role of the 26S Proteasome in Regulation of DNA Repair

\$99,000

Alice P. Taylor, Ph.D., Garden State Cancer Center

Placental Growth Factor Regulation in Tumors after Cytotoxic Therapy

\$99,000

Jan B. Wollack, M.D., Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School /

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Cerebral Folate Transport: Role in Cancer Treatment

\$97,900

Isermann Family Foundation Award

Edouard I. Azzam, Ph.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

Signaling from Irradiated to Non-Irradiated Cells

\$99,000

One Year Awards

John E. Langenfeld, M.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Role of Bone Morphogenetic Protein in Lung Cancer
\$49,500

Burton Elliot Appel, M.D., Hackensack University Medical Center
Influenza Vaccine Immunogenicity in Children During and after Therapy for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
\$14,340

Breast Cancer Research Fund Award

David E. Axelrod, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University
Quantitative Hispathology of Breast Carcinoma In Situ
\$49,500

RFA: Virginia Kohler Lymphoma Award

The NJCCR received a significant amount of contributions in memory of Ms. Virginia Kohler. As a result, the

NJCCR was able to match these funds and offer two awards that examined the causes, prevention or treatment of lymphoma.



Daniel J. Medina, Ph.D., The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Lymphoma Vaccine Development
\$100,000

David M. Lukac, Ph.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School
Viral Reactivation of KSVH in Primary Effusion Lymphoma
\$96,702

RFA: Cancer Pain and Palliation

As stated in P.L. 2000 Chapter 63, the New Jersey State Commission on Cancer Research is required to take steps necessary to encourage the development within the State of research projects on pain management and palliative care for persons diagnosed with cancer.

This law is based on the recommendations issued by the New Jersey Legislative Commission for the Study of Pain Management Policy, in its report to the Governor and the Legislature in March 1999. Patients with cancer often have multiple pain problems, but in most patients, the pain can be controlled effectively. Unfortunately, under-treatment is common, because of a lack of knowledge by health care providers, negative attitudes of patients and

providers toward the use of drugs for pain relief, problems related to drug regulations, and reimbursement issues.

This law is based on a belief that efforts to extend the knowledge-base upon which pain management policy is constructed will help to create a more informed public, including both providers and patients, and enhance the understanding of effective pain management and interdisciplinary palliative care as components of public health policy.

In response to a Special Request For Applications (RFA), the NJCCR made two awards that will serve as potential statewide models for effective pain management and palliative care. These include:

Shirley S. Hwang, RN, MS, AOCN, VA New Jersey Health Care System

Measures of Clinical Benefit Response to Standardized Symptom Interventions at Different Timepoints along the Terminal Decline Model
\$100,000

Ellyn E. Matthews, Ph.D., The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Impact of Outpatient Pain Management Program on Patient Factors & Provider Behavior
\$46,893

RFA: Investigating Disparity in Cancer Rates for Ethnic Minorities

Although clinical trials may help improve cancer treatment and prevention options, very few people participate. Not only are the overall numbers of participants in a clinical research trial low, there is also under-representation from ethnic minorities, immigrants, the uninsured and older adults.

As a result, a Request For Application (RFA) was published and after peer-review a grant was awarded in 2001, to Dr. Shawna Hudson to address this disparity. This award was made possible from the contributions raised from the “Concert to Conquer Cancer” that was held at the Trenton War Memorial in 1999.

Shawna V. Hudson, Ph.D., *The Cancer Institute of New Jersey*
Physician Views about Cancer Trial Research
\$58,050



New Jersey Cancer Research Fellowships

The New Jersey Cancer Research Fellowship program was initiated by the NJCCR in 1988 to attract and retain scholars pursuing careers in cancer research. Since then, talented students continue to focus on a range of research projects that have contributed significantly to the scientific reputation of the State. In addition, jobs have been created, our technological base has been enhanced, and the quality of science has improved.

At a time when unstable funding sources make a career in scientific research less attractive, the NJCCR finds it especially rewarding to be able to fund fellowships that provide “hands on” laboratory experience to promising scholars.

These programs help establish the foundation for the kind of scientific investigation that will keep New Jersey at the forefront in the war against cancer. Over the years this has proven to be a sound and promising investment generating over 350 published papers in peer-reviewed journals in addition to numerous presentations at conferences within and outside the State.

This year, the Commission was able to award two post-doctoral, ten pre-doctoral, and eleven summer fellowships to students of outstanding merit.

Post Doctoral Fellowships

Dai Wang, Ph.D., Princeton University

Low-Molecular-Weight Proteins of Human Cytomegalovirus
\$58,050

Mellisande R. Wolf, Ph.D., Princeton University

Orb in Translation and mRNA Localization in Oncogenesis
\$58,050

Pre Doctoral Fellowships \$33,000 each

Jessica B. Bessler, Princeton University

Telomeres and the Rrm3p Helicase

Sanjay J. Chandriani, Princeton University

Interactions between Myc and Chromatin

Robert J. Major, Rutgers, The State University

Analysis of Notch Signaling in Organized Tissue Growth

Dina P. Matheos, Princeton University

The Role of Fus3p in Cell Fusion

Brian A. McCarthy, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

The Role of IL-10 in B-1 Malignancies

Susan E. Schweinsberg, Princeton University

Characterization of the Fab7 Boundary Element

Sukhwinder Sing, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

Phagocytosis, Cross-Priming, and Tumor Immunity

Ekaterina Semenova, Princeton University

Analysis of The Embryonic Lethal Detection Mutant s-1Acrp

Derek R. Tallar, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Differential Gene Profiling of C-Terminal p53 Mutants

Arvin S. Yang, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Cytokine Optimization of Anti-Tumor Vaccines

Summer Fellowships \$2,800 each

William D. Bradley, *Garden State Cancer Center*

Noel A. De Villa, *Garden State Cancer Center*

Michele M. Hickey, *UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School*

Stacy C. Hwang, *Princeton University*

Shin-Wu Liu, *Rutgers, The State University*

Yun-Sheen S. Liu, *Princeton University*

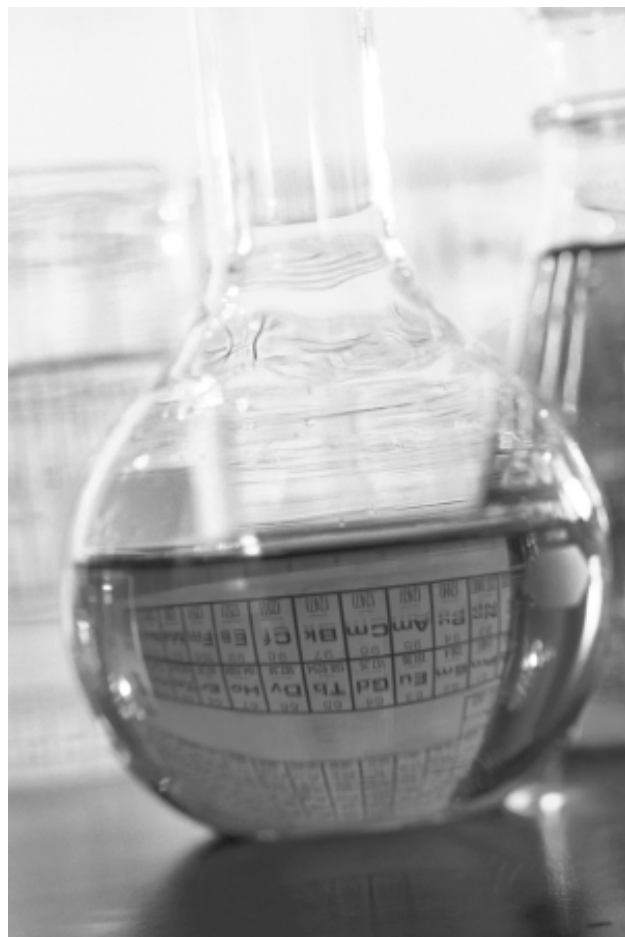
Farrah Mikhail, *Princeton University*

Afshan A. Nanji, *Princeton University*

Cynthia O. Okoduwa, *Garden State Cancer Center*

Danielle M. Pierre, *Princeton University*

Wilbert D. Yeung, *The Cancer Institute of New Jersey*



2001: A Year in Review

This report of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research's major activities for the year 2001 is only a partial overview of the high quality work that is carried out every day in New Jersey in support of our mission.

2001 Annual Retreat on Cancer Research

In 2001, the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey once again co-sponsored *The Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey*. This year's event was held at the Princeton Marriott on April 25, 2001, and was attended by over 500 researchers, allied health professionals, nurses, students, patients and advocates. Once again, the event was divided into three different sessions to accommodate interests from cancer researchers, nursing & psychosocial professionals and the public.

The general session attracted over 350 cancer researchers, health care professionals and students from throughout New Jersey. This session featured lectures from renowned scientists such as Dr. Carlos Arteaga and Dr. Louis Staudt. Dr. Carlos Arteaga, Professor of Medicine and Cell Biology and Ingram Professor of Cancer Research at Vanderbilt University discussed "HER2/neu: Mechanisms of Transformation and Implications for Clinical Trials". Dr. Louis Staudt, Senior Investigator in the Metabolism Branch at the National Cancer Institute discussed his findings on the discovery of novel cancer types and mechanisms by gene expression profiling.

Over 80 health professionals attended the nursing and psychosocial session and were treated to an exciting talk by Dr. Julia Rowland, Director of the Office of Cancer Survivorship at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Rowland discussed the role psycho-oncology plays in cancer. Dr. Wendy Budin and Jill Baran followed with plenary presentations and the day ended with an interactive poster session.

The public forum offered a wide variety of educational talks by Lawrence R. Coia, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Community-Kimball Regional Cancer Center, Michael Cole, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular Biology at Princeton University, Susan Goodin, Pharm.D., Director of Pharmacy at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Marco Gottardis, Ph.D., Associate Director of Oncology at Bristol-Myers Squibb and William Hait, M.D., Ph.D., Director of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Each concentrated their discussions on the advances in cancer research and treatment in the year 2001. Over 100 cancer patients and advocates attended and each departed with an increased awareness about the availability of cancer innovations right here in New Jersey.

Poster sessions were held throughout the day featuring the excellent work being conducted in New Jersey. Each year, talented graduate and postdoctoral students compete for the New Jersey Cancer Research Award for Scientific Excellence. Bristol-Myers Squibb, major sponsor of the program, along with several other major pharmaceutical companies, sponsored the following awards:

1. Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology award to Cole M. Zimmerman, Rutgers, The State University, for "Defining New Components of TGF-Beta Signaling Pathways in *C. Elegans*"
2. Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology award to Wen Xie, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, for "Alterations Of SMAD Signaling In Sporadic And Hereditary Human Breast Cancer-A Tissue Microarray Analysis"

3. Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology award to B.P. Harvey, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, for “A Novel Human CA/Calmodulin-Dependent Protein Kinase Phosphatase”
4. Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology award to Olalekan Oluwole, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, for “Differences In Treatment Of Colorectal Cancer Among African-Americans Compared to Caucasians”
5. Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology award to Brenda Bourassa, Rutgers, The State University, for “Peritoneal Macrophages From Osteopontin-Deficient Mice Exhibit Impaired Cytotoxicity Towards Tumor Cells”
6. Pharmacia Corporation award to Holly Henry, Center for Advanced Biotechnology, and Medicine for “The Pathway By Which p53 Signals Programmed Cell Death”
7. Pharmacia Corporation award to M. Kim, Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine, for “Mouse Models Of Prostate Cancer Initiation And Progression”
8. Pharmacia Corporation award to Mireya Marin, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, for “Chromatin Remodeling In Oligodendrocyte Development”
9. Amgen Oncology award to W.J. Simmons, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, for “Shared Cellular And Molecular Traits Of Spontaneous Germinal Center B

Cell Lymphomas From Different Mouse Strains Suggests A Common Genetic Etiology”

10. Amgen Oncology award to Michael Hampsey, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, for “Screening For Temperature-Sensitive Mutants Of An Essential Yeast Gene”
11. Novartis award to Pavel Kramata, Rutgers, The State University, for “Quantitative Detection Of Point Mutations At A Specific Site In Mixed DNA Samples”
12. Novartis award to Y. Zhao, Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine, for “Mechanisms Of Signal Transduction And Transcriptional Regulation By The BCL-3 Protooncogene”

Overall, the annual retreat has become the premier scientific meeting in New Jersey that highlights the scientific achievements within the state, encourages interaction, and fosters new collaborations. The 2002 retreat is scheduled for April 24.



The Prostate Cancer Summit II Moving New Jersey Forward Together

In the fall of 1997, key groups in prostate cancer sponsored the “New Jersey Prostate Cancer Summit” that brought national experts together with state representatives to formulate a working plan to reduce prostate cancer morbidity and mortality. As a result, a statewide action plan for New Jersey was published in the spring of 1998 that provided measurable goals and action steps designed to reach those goals.

Subsequently, much progress has been made on a number of fronts. Several goals, developed as a result of that meeting, have been met, and prostate cancer mortality and morbidity rates have declined in New Jersey over the past several years. However, an integrated and comprehensive approach to prostate cancer has remained elusive.

In response, the Prostate Cancer Summit II was held on April 4, 2001, at the Woodbridge Hilton, to develop concrete and refined strategies to conquer this disease. This working conference brought together physicians, community representatives, social workers, nurses, patient advocates and business leaders, to consolidate and coordinate their efforts against prostate cancer in the state. These leaders formulated statewide strategies to bring an integrated and comprehensive approach to prostate cancer control to New Jersey, and developed a research

agenda that will move the state forward in the fight against prostate cancer. The program focused on three major areas: early detection, education, and research.

The daylong event began with keynote speaker, Dr. Peter C. Albertsen, Professor of Surgery, Chief, Division of Urology at the University of Connecticut Health Center, who addressed several major issues surrounding prostate cancer. Former Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Christine M. Grant, JD, MBA, Eddy Bresnitz, M.D., MS, Assistant Commissioner & State Epidemiologist from the DHSS and Betsy Kohler, MPH, Director, Cancer Epidemiology Services from the DHSS, and David Momrow, MPH, Senior Vice President from the American Cancer Society, Eastern Division Inc., continued Dr. Albertsen’s discussion and educated the audience about the accomplishments and ongoing efforts at the state and community level.

The afternoon session included three workshops that focused on education, screening/early detection and research. Chairs of the workshops included Robert Rickert, M.D., Saint Barnabas Health Care System (screening/early detection), Christopher Koprowski, M.D.,

Cooper Health System (education) and Robert DiPaola, M.D., The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (research).

Dr. Arthur Israel, chair of the summit, ended the conference with conclusions and strategies from the workshops and finally, a call to action.

Tap Pharmaceuticals was the major underwriter of the summit and the sponsoring patron was AstraZeneca. Co-sponsors of the event included the American Cancer Society, Eastern Division Inc., Atlantic Health System, Cooper Health System, The Dean & Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Institute at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Hackensack University Medical

Center, New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research, New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services, Saint Barnabas Health Care System and Valley Hospital.



Drs. Robert Rickert and Louis Keller III discuss prostate cancer screening strategies.

The Conquer Cancer License Plate

The NJCCR administers the proceeds raised through the Conquer Cancer license plate. The plate is available at local Division of Motor Vehicle offices and can be purchased at any time during the registration cycle for \$50 (\$42 goes to cancer research), with a \$10 annual renewal fee (100% of the renewal fee goes to cancer research projects).

In 2001, over 6,500 plates were sold, raising more than \$325,000, when

renewal fees are included, for cancer research. With the consistent success of the license plate, New Jersey cancer researchers can look forward to additional grant and fellowship awards.



2001 Breast Cancer Research Calendar

New Jersey Artists joined forces with breast cancer experts to publish a unique 2001 Breast Cancer Calendar.



The calendar proved to be a successful tool in the fight against cancer, raising over \$36,000 for Breast Cancer Research. One Hundred Percent of the proceeds raised from the calendar will support innovative breast cancer research at non-profit institutions throughout New Jersey through the New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund.

information about breast cancer, including reminder stickers for breast self-exams and an annual mammogram. It contained healthy eating tips, inspirational quotes and valuable resource information.

The calendar was jointly sponsored by the Breast Cancer Research Advisory Group to The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research and Rutgers, The State University. Bristol-Myers Squibb provided a major educational grant to support its development.

Thirteen top professional artists whose lives have been touched by breast cancer donated their artwork for the calendar. They include S. Allyn Schaeffer, Bonnie Maranz, Barbara Schachman, Debra F. Livingston, Hayley Jennifer, Irma L. Ostroff, Carole Dakake, Kat Block, Clara Manheim, Howard Nathenson, Alice Bryan Hondru, Paul W. McCormack, and J. Brian Townsend.

Striving to be a one of a kind educational tool, the calendar provided helpful

The New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund

The New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund (BCRF), which is supported by contributions through the New Jersey state income tax return, had a successful year in the 1999. The BCRF finished number one amongst income tax choices, raising over \$245,000 for breast cancer research.

When these funds are combined with private donations and other special project revenues, the NJCCR will be able to award more grants, fellowships, and scholarships to breast cancer researchers throughout the state.



White Beeches Golf & Country Club Provides Hope and Support

With each passing year, and each White Beeches charity affair, hope increases for people with cancer in New Jersey. The White Beeches Golf and Country Club, once again, had a banner year, raising over \$55,000 for cancer research.

On July 24, 2001, the Ladies at White Beeches Golf and Country Club in Haworth, N.J., sponsored a “Christmas in July” charity affair that raised over \$39,000, and was divided, between patient aid and cancer research. The daylong event brought together over 250 women, who competed in bridge and golf tournaments. A wonderful luncheon and award ceremony followed, which also featured a Chinese auction.

Soon after, on October 22, 2001, *Oberg & Linquist*, a top appliance center in Westwood, NJ, along with *KitchenAide*, a leading manufacture of kitchen appliances, sponsored a charity golf affair at White Beeches that raised \$36,000 for breast cancer.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from both events will support cancer research at non-profit institutions in New Jersey.

Since more funding for cancer research is needed to support the many deserving and promising programs in New Jersey, the Commission is very grateful and fortunate to be the beneficiaries of these two very successful White Beeches events.

Cancer Researchers Reaching Out: A Sharing Perspectives Series

For several years, the NJCCR has successfully co-sponsored, with Rider University several “Partners in Cancer Research” programs that strive to provide the public with a chance to interact with medical and scientific cancer experts in New Jersey.

Over 170 patients, survivors, researchers and advocates attended this year’s seminar, entitled *Researchers Reaching Out* which was held Saturday, December 1, 2001, at Rider University, in Lawrenceville, NJ.

Speakers included Robert Wieder, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medicine at the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, Sandra Silberman, M.D., Ph.D., International Clinical Leader of Gleevec at Novartis Oncology, Michael Cirigliano,

M.D., FACS, Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Jack Goldberg, M.D., Head of the Division of Hematology & Oncology at Cooper Health System, and Barbara Rabinowitz, Ph.D., Director of Oncology Services at Meridian Health Systems.

The audience enjoyed the benefits of a conference setting where they could interact with cancer experts on such topics as promising cancer research and practice in New Jersey, pain control & symptom management, complementary medicine in cancer care, and issues surrounding end of life decisions. “Where’s Shirley”, an educational play that addresses the many myths and fears about breast cancer, was enjoyed by all and was the perfect ending to this special day.

2001 Commission Members and Staff

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Paul E. Wallner, D.O., F.A.C.R. **Commission Chair**



Dr. Wallner is Clinical Professor and Vice Chairman in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He is Past-President of the Oncology Society of New Jersey and Past-President of the American Cancer Society, New Jersey Division, Inc. Dr. Wallner chairs the Core Clinical Advisory Group, and chaired the State Cancer Plan Task Force for the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. He served on the Board of Directors of the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology and is a member of the Board of Chancellors of The American College of Radiology. Dr. Wallner resides in Moorestown, New Jersey.

Anna Marie Skalka, Ph.D. **Commission Vice-Chair**



Dr. Skalka has been the Senior Vice President for Basic Science and Director of the Institute for Cancer Research at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia since 1987. Previously, she chaired the Department of Molecular Oncology at the Roche Institute for Molecular Biology in Nutley. Dr. Skalka serves on a number of national and international scientific advisory committees, and on the editorial boards of several scientific journals. She was a recipient of an Outstanding Investigator Grant from the National Cancer Institute and an unrestricted grant for research in infectious diseases from the Bristol Myers Squibb Co. In 1994, in recognition of her outstanding achievements, Dr. Skalka was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in 1996 she was elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM). In 1999 she was elected to the Board of Governors of AAM. Dr. Skalka is an internationally recognized expert on molecular genetics and the molecular biology of RNA tumor viruses. Dr. Skalka lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

Thomas Atherholt, Ph.D.



Dr. Atherholt is a member of the Division of Science, Research and Technology of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) where he is a research microbiologist. Dr. Atherholt received his doctorate in microbiology from Rutgers University. He was a genetic toxicologist at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research in Camden, NJ, prior to joining the DEP in 1990. Dr. Atherholt serves as an ex-officio member representing the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. He resides in Moorestown, New Jersey.

Eddy A. Bresnitz, M.D., MS



Dr. Bresnitz is the New Jersey State Epidemiologist/Assistant Commissioner of Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health Programs in the Department of Health and Senior Services. He oversees the Office of Cancer Control and Prevention and the Cancer Epidemiology Service in the Department. He is also Professor of Medicine in the Department of Environmental and Community Medicine in the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the School of Public Health of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Dr. Bresnitz received his undergraduate and medical degrees from McGill University and a Master's of Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed postgraduate training at Montifiore Hospital in New York City and at the University

of Pennsylvania and is board certified in internal, pulmonary and preventive medicine. He was formerly Chairman of the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine in the MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine in Philadelphia. Dr. Bresnitz has been principal investigator or co-principal investigator on a variety of NIH, foundation and state grants, and has published extensively, principally in the area of epidemiology and disease surveillance. Dr. Bresnitz serves as an ex-officio member representing the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services. Dr. Bresnitz resides in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

Frederick B. Cohen, M.D.



Dr. Cohen was the Director of Medical Oncology from 1970 to 1999 and is past president of the medical staff of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. He is recipient of the Edward J. Ill Award, one of the highest honors bestowed on a physician in New Jersey, and the New Jersey Pride Award in Health. He is past president of the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey and served as past president for the American Cancer Society, New Jersey Division, Inc. Dr. Cohen now serves as a principal investigator for the STAR project in addition to several clinical studies by national cooperative groups. He resides in South Orange, New Jersey.

Lawrence R. Coia, M.D.



Dr. Coia is the Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Community Medical Center and Chairs the Radiation Oncology Committee of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. He was a Senior Member and Clinical Director in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, as well as a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania prior to joining the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. He has written nine books and over one hundred journal articles. He is internationally known for his work in developing multimodality treatment for esophageal cancer and for quality assessment in radiation oncology. He is a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology. Dr. Coia has served on numerous national and international medical advisory committees. Besides his work in esophageal cancer he is noted for his work as Associate Director of the Patterns of Care Study, which has helped develop U.S. national benchmarks for radiation oncology for multiple malignancies in which radiation has an important therapeutic role. Dr. Coia resides in Indian Mills, New Jersey.

George E. Dunaif, Ph.D.



Dr. Dunaif is the Senior Director - Toxicology and Analytical Services at the Campbell Soup Company, Camden. Dr. Dunaif directs the corporate and international toxicology and analytical laboratory programs and staff. In addition, he is the co-coordinator of the Campbell Integrated Pest Management Program. Dr. Dunaif received his Ph.D. in environmental toxicology from Cornell University. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Toxicology and has served on a number of national and international committees on nutrition and toxicology. He resides in Mount Laurel, New Jersey.

Commission Staff

Ann Marie Hill
Executive Director

Michael C. Toleno
Assistant Director

Shane Letezia
Grant Coordinator

Karen Schaefer
Secretarial Assistant

Lynn W. Enquist, Ph.D.



Dr. Enquist is a Professor of Molecular Biology at the Department of Molecular Biology at Princeton University. Previously, he was a Research Leader in Molecular Biology at Dupont and a Senior Research Fellow at DuPont-Merck Pharmaceutical Company. He was responsible for the DuPont-Merck Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and served as scientific advisor for senior management. In addition to teaching virology at Princeton, Dr. Enquist has published over one hundred fifty scientific papers and books. He has served on major scientific committees including the National Institutes of Health Experimental Virology Study Section and the Microbial Physiology and Genetics Study Section. Dr. Enquist is an editor of the Journal of Virology, a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has lectured at numerous seminars and universities around the world. Dr. Enquist received his doctoral degree in Microbiology from the Medical College of Virginia. He resides in Princeton, New Jersey.

Barbara Rabinowitz, Ph.D.



Dr. Rabinowitz is the first Commission member to hold expertise in the psychological and psychosocial aspects of cancer. She completed her doctorate in Social Work at Rutgers University and is also a registered nurse. Dr. Rabinowitz completed three recent invited book chapters in textbooks for physicians on the psychosocial aspects of cancer care. She has published numerous articles, completed two important cancer research projects and presents papers to professional organizations nationwide. Dr. Rabinowitz is the Director of Oncology Services for Meridian Health System. In addition, she maintains a private practice in psychotherapy and sex therapy and resides in Lakewood, New Jersey.

Jeffrey A. Warren, M.P.A.

Mr. Warren is Senior Director, Alliance Development for Pfizer Health Solutions, the Clinical Informatics subsidiary of Pfizer. Mr. Warren was previously, Senior Director, Business Development, Parke-Davis. Mr. Warren was formerly the Executive Vice President, Corporate Development at Cathedral Healthcare System and was a National Program Director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Mr. Warren holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from New York University's Wagner School of Public Service. Mr. Warren is a member of the Board of the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey, a member of the Board of Health Decisions, Vice President of the Board of Gilda's Club and is on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of the American Medical Group Association. Mr. Warren resides in Parsippany, New Jersey.

2001 Advisory Group Update and Membership

Cancer Prevention and Control Update

The Cancer Control and Prevention Group has been reactivated and is focusing on three projects: (1) a survey of primary care physicians and the use of screening guidelines, (2) a survey of clinical research coordinators statewide, aimed at best practices for recruitment in

clinical trials, and (3) the development of a training module for finding clinical trials on the internet for community librarians, grassroots organizations, and community groups. The project is aimed at addressing the disparity between those with access to the Internet and those without such access.

Cancer Control and Prevention Advisory Group Members

Chair:
Dona Schneider, PhD, MPH
Rutgers, The State University
New Brunswick, NJ

Gilbert Baez
Overlook Hospital
Summit, NJ

Elisa Bandera
Rutgers, The State University
New Brunswick, NJ

Generosa Grana, MD
The Cooper Health System
Camden, NJ

Marilyn Hansen, CTR
NJ Operations Cancer Program
Roselle Park, NJ

David Henry, MPH
Montgomery Twp Health Dept
Belle Mead, NJ

Jun-Yan Hong, PhD
UMDNJ-RWJMS
Piscataway, NJ

Kathleen Jennings-Dozier, PhD
MCP Hahnemann University
Philadelphia, PA

Judith Klotz, DrPH
New Jersey Department of
Health & Senior Services
Trenton, NJ

Jane Lewis, DrPH
UMDNJ-School of Public Health
Piscataway, NJ

Cari Miller
The Peer Review Org of NJ
East Brunswick, NJ

Mitch Rosen
UMDNJ-School of Public Health
New Brunswick, NJ

The NJCCR has been fortunate in being able to work with a large number of health professionals, researchers, policy makers, and advocates from throughout New Jersey as part of its Advisory Group structure. Many people have given generously of their time and expertise to contribute to the work of the Commission

Breast Cancer Research Advisory Group Update

In 2001, the Breast Cancer Advisory Group, along with thirteen New Jersey artists, created an educational Breast Cancer Calendar. The calendar provided helpful information about breast cancer, including reminder stickers for breast self-exams and an annual mammogram. The calendar, featured in hospitals, cancer centers, museums, and art galleries throughout New Jersey raised over \$36,000 for breast cancer research.

Members are working with other breast cancer agencies in the state to evaluate the

outcomes from the 1995 New Jersey Breast Cancer Action Plan. A report will be provided in late Spring 2002.

In addition, the advisory group members are testing a new approach to encourage scientists and clinicians to enter the field of breast cancer research. As a result, the NJCCR published an RFA for projects that involve collaborative interdisciplinary interactions. The initial response to this initiative from the research community was very positive.

Breast Cancer Research Advisory Group

Chair: Susan Rittling, PhD

Rutgers, The State University
Piscataway, NJ

Linda Basilio

Patient Advocate
Wallburg, NJ

Jeanne Beck, PhD

Coriell Institute of Medical Research
Camden, NJ

Kat Block

Patient Advocate
Springfield, NJ

Margaret Bryan, MD

UMDNJ-NJMS
Newark, NJ

Deborah M. Capko, MD

Hackensack Univ. Medical Center
Hackensack, NJ

Generosa Grana, MD

The Cooper Health System
Camden, NJ

The Honorable Rose Marie Heck

Assemblywomen, District 38
Lodi, NJ

Thomas J. Kearney, MD

The Cancer Institute of NJ
New Brunswick, NJ

Judi Klein

Patient Advocate
Monmouth Junction, NJ

Betsy Kohler, MPH

New Jersey Department of
Health & Senior Services
Trenton, NJ

Reju Korah, PhD

UMDNJ_NJMS
Newark, NJ

Joyce Maso

Patient Advocate
New Brunswick, NJ

Helen Richards

Patient Advocate
Haworth, NJ

Michael Reiss, MD

The Cancer Institute of NJ
New Brunswick, NJ

Eva Sciandra

American Cancer Society
Albany, New York

Thomas J. Smith, MD

Morristown Memorial Hospital
Morristown, NJ

Mary Storms

Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Kendell Park, NJ

Robert Wieder, MD, PhD

UMDNJ-NJMS
Newark, NJ

Joint Nursing and Psychosocial Update

The Joint Psychosocial & Nursing Advisory Group to the NJCCR was created to advise the Commission on special research needs pertaining to nursing, psychology, sociology, and related disciplines, for the purpose of addressing gaps in vital areas of cancer research and cancer care in New Jersey.

In addition, this group continues to address the needs and concerns of patients through the Resource Book for Cancer Patients in New Jersey. Over 70,000 Resource Books have been distributed since its inception in 1992 and a Spanish version of the book will be updated for the summer of 2002.

Joint Psychosocial/Nursing Advisory Group Members

Co-Chair:

Wendy Budin, PhD, RNC
Seton Hall University
South Orange, NJ

John R. deVelder

Robert Wood Johnson
Univ. Hospital
New Brunswick, NJ

Kathleen Neville, PhD, RN

Kean University
Union, NJ

Co-Chair:

Lissa Parsonnet, PhD
Saint Barnabas Health Care System
Livingston, NJ

Alice Renick Ettinger, RN, MSN, CPNP, CPON

St. Peter's University Hospital
New Brunswick, NJ

Linda J. Patrick-Miller, PhD

The Cancer Institute of NJ
New Brunswick, NJ

Denyse Adler, MA

The Adler Group
Montville, NJ

David Gordon

Tomorrows Children's Institute
Hackensack, NJ

Kathleen Walsh Scura, EdD, RN,

William Paterson University
Wayne, NJ

Alan Axelrod, MSW

Princeton House
Behavioral Healthcare
Princeton, NJ

Mildred Ortu Kowalski, RN, MPA

Novartis
East Hanover, NJ

Martha Weiner, MS, RN

The Cooper Health System
Camden, NJ

Donna Bocco

DCB Associates
Freehold, NJ

Lois Lorenz, LCSW, Eds

American Cancer Society
Parsippany, NJ

Susan Orkand Cohen, MA, ADTR, CCLS

Tomorrows Children's Institute
Hackensack, NJ

Judith Much, MSN, RN, CS, AOCN

The Cancer Institute of NJ
New Brunswick, NJ

New Jersey Pediatric Hematology Oncology Network Update

The New Jersey Pediatric Hematology Oncology Network (NJPHON) serves as an Advisory Group to the Commission and provides an umbrella organization promoting collaboration among the ten pediatric cancer centers serving children with cancer in New Jersey.

This group is focusing on cancer survivorship and long-term effects of childhood cancers. Dr. Beverly Ryan is undertaking a roundtable on reproductive/sexuality problems in young adult survivors of childhood cancer.

New Jersey Pediatric Hematology Oncology Network

Chair: Peri Kamalakar, MD

Mary Ann Bonilla, MD

Susan Murphy, MD

Ann G. Nepo, MD

Richard Sills, MD

Brenda C. Sison, MD

Saint Barnabas Medical Center
Livingston, NJ

Barry L. Barnoski, PhD

Rod J. Herrera, LCSW, MSW

J. Phil McCoy, PhD

W. Roy Overton, PhD

Steven Paul, MD

Digna Quiles, LPN, CCRA

The Cooper Health System
Camden, NJ

Wondwesson Bekele, MD

Ann Marie DeMarco, CPNP

Shari Feinberg, RN, CRA

Pauline Garcia, CSW

Peri Kamalakar, MD

Kevin McSherry, MD

Carina Rodriguez, RN

Edward Schultz, PhD

Stacey Springer, MSW

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
Newark, NJ

Barbara H. Greenbaum, MD

Lateefah T. Hayes, CSW

Susan F. Travis, MD

The Children's Hospital of
Philadelphia Specialty Center
Voorhees, NJ

Linda Ader, MSW

Burton Appel, MD

Joel A. Brockstein, MD

Hope Castoria, RN, BS, CPON

Mary Connell, CRA

Carlie Cord, RN, BS, CPON

Steven Diamond, MD

Lucia Figueroa, MSW

Frances Flug, MD

Alfred Gillio, MD

Laura Goode, RN, RNC

Steven Halpern, MD

Michael B. Harris, MD

Emy Hyans, MA, SW

Ellen Mass, RN, MSN

Sherri Mayans, RN, MSN

Noreen Quinlan, RN, MA

Tracey Rojek, RN, CNS

Beverly R. Ryan, MD

Annette Sinski, RN, CNS

Carol Smyth, RN, MS

Judy Solomon, MSW, MPH

Cindy S. Steele, MD

Gary A. Walco, PhD

Tomorrows Children's Institute
Hackensack, NJ

Justiniano F. Bagtas, MD

Wondwesson Bekele, MD

Linda Ficher-Hopkins, LCSW

Peri Kamalakar, MD

Christine Kurtz, PNP

Joanne Szymanski, RN, CPON

Monmouth Medical Center
Long Branch, NJ

Frederick C. Braun, Jr., MD

Ann Zanelli, RN

Overlook Hospital
Summit, NJ

Christine Call-Sternberg, MAT

Richard Drachtman, MD

Sunanda Gaur, MD

Cathy Lepnoitis, RN

David Mandelbaum, MD

Renee Nigam, MD

Joan Rubin, CPON, CRA

Priscilla Scheiner, ACSW

Robert Wood Johnson

University Hospital

New Brunswick, NJ

Margarat Materson, MD

Maureen Mazzaccaro, RN, MS

Peter Y. Ho, MD

Jersey Shore Medical Center

Neptune, NJ

Lawrence J. Ettinger, MD

Alice Renick-Ettinger, RN, CPNP

St. Peter's University Medical Ctr.

Dona Schneider, PhD, MPH

Rutgers, The State University

New Brunswick, NJ

Ann Marie Hill

NJ Commission on Cancer Research

Trenton, NJ

Prostate Cancer Advisory Group Update

Dr. Arthur Israel, of Morristown Memorial Hospital, along with several members of this Advisory Group, convened the second Prostate Cancer Summit on April 4, 2001, at the Woodbridge Hilton.

As a result of this very successful conference, statewide leaders continue to work with the Prostate Cancer

Advisory Group to keep New Jersey's momentum moving forward to develop concrete and defined strategies to conquer this disease.

Subcommittees have been formed, key leaders have been recognized, meetings have been held, and an agenda has been developed that will focus primarily on early detection, education, and research.

Prostate Cancer Research Advisory Group Members

Chair: Robert DiPaola, MD

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ

Thea Greco

Patient Advocate
Roseland, NJ

George Rhoads, MD, MPH

Environmental and Occupational
Health Sciences Institute
Piscataway, NJ

H. Robert Carter

Patient Advocate
Little Silver, NJ

Stuart Leitner, MD

Saint Barnabas
Health Care System
Livingston, NJ

Terry Roe

US Too!
Martinsville, NJ

Keith DaCosta

No Barriers Home Care Service
Newark, NJ

Michael Perrotti, MD

UMDNJ-RWJMS
New Brunswick, NJ

Cory Abate Shen, PhD

Center for Advanced
Biotechnology and Medicine
Piscataway, NJ

Peter Doherty

Patient Advocate
Morristown, NJ

Don Reed

Patient Advocate
Hopewell, NJ

Basic Research Advisory Group Update

The Basic Research Advisory Group to the NJCCR sees as its primary function developing innovative strategies for communicating with the public the value of basic research. A program that this group has implemented, titled “Partners in Cancer Research”, focuses on researchers communicating to cancer survivors and their families on the value of basic research. Two conferences, held over the last 3 years, have brought together researchers, cancer survivors and advocates. Each

conference has attracted approximately 200 attendees and the feedback has been excellent – indicating that scientists have effectively communicated central aspects of their research to patients and their families. Particularly important has been this groups success in bringing minorities into these conferences.

Other projects include development of a web site that will facilitate information about research and clinical trials to patients and the public.

Basic Research Advisory Group Update Members

Chair:

Jonathan Yavelow, PhD
Rider University
Lawrenceville, NJ

Marie Hoover, PhD

Advanced Biomedical Laboratories
Cinnaminson, NJ

Elizabeth Raveche, PhD

UMDNJ-NJMS
Newark, NJ

Suzie Chen, PhD

Rutgers, The State University
Piscataway, NJ

Alice Y. –C Liu, PhD

Rutgers, The State University
Piscataway, NJ

Ian Whitehead, PhD

UMDNJ-NJMS
Newark, NJ

David Gold, PhD

Garden State Cancer Center
Belleville, NJ

Edith Postel, PhD

Princeton University
Princeton, NJ

Nancy Woychik, PhD

UMDNJ-RWJMS
Piscataway, NJ

**Coming in
2002!**

Advisory Group on Improving Access to Clinical Trials for All in New Jersey

Mr. Keith DaCosta, Executive Vice-President of the 100 Black Men of New Jersey and Co-Chair of the National Health and Wellness Committee of the 100 Black Men of America, will be chairing this group.



Keith DaCosta

2001 Revenue Summary

Revenues

State Appropriation (Cancer Research Fund)	\$1,000,000
Breast Cancer Research Fund	264,346
Conquer Cancer License Plate	509,650
Gifts, bequests, donations, grants	78,315
Total Revenues	\$2,022,965

Monies raised through the Breast Cancer Research Fund, the Conquer Cancer License Plate or from contributions do not finance the Commission's operating expenses.

Expenses

Grants	\$1,182,260
Fellowships	476,900
Operating expenses	295,000
Educational programs & services	66,000
Total Expenditures	\$2,020,160

100% of these contributions go directly to an approved cancer research project in New Jersey and are tax deductible.

2002: Planning for the Future

The Commission and its Advisory Groups will be working on the following projects/programs in the coming year:

Release of 2002-2003 NJCCR research and fellowship awards, April 2002.

Release of 2002-2003 Breast Cancer Research Fund Awards, April 2002.

The 2002 Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey

April 24, 2002, at the Princeton Marriott
Princeton Forrestal Village
Princeton, New Jersey
co-sponsored with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Sharing Perspectives on Biomedical Research:

A Conference For High School Teachers and Their Students,
May 21, 2002
Rider University
Lawrenceville, New Jersey

Demystifying Oncology Research:

The Journey from Clinician to Educated Research Consumer and on to Investigator
June 5, 2002
The American Cancer Society
North Brunswick, New Jersey

Cancer & Aging Conference

October 4 & 5, 2002, at the Princeton Marriott, Princeton Forrestal Village,
Princeton, New Jersey in co-sponsorship with Meridian Health Systems, Saint
Barnabas Health Care System and UMDNJ- School of Public Health.

